



shôjo



BASARA

Story and Art by **Yumi Tamura**

Vol. 10



shōjo

BASARA™

Vol. 10

Story and Art by
Yumi Tamura

Basara

Vol. #10

Shôjo Edition

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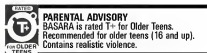
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In the early 21st century, an apocalypse turned fertile lands into deserts and brought human civilization to its knees. Control of Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. Three hundred years later, a new hope was born.

At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village placed their hopes in Tatara, their Chief's son, raising him as the "Boy of Destiny."

With the tyrannical Ukon XV ruling Japan through his ruthless sons, a better tomorrow can only be achieved through strife and bloodshed. When the "Boy of Destiny" is killed by the Red King's forces, it is up to his twin sister Sarasa to lead their people in his name, or all will be lost.

Sarasa has achieved victory over the Red King in Kyushu and the Blue King in Seiran, gaining many allies along the way. But Sarasa has been nearly blinded in a failed attempt to rescue "Tatara's" mother from General Kazan and must journey to Okinawa to seek Doctor Basho.

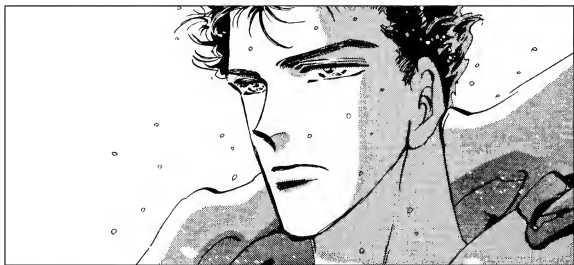
Setting his forces against that of his own general has created conflict within the Red King's troops that culminates in a coup. Princess Senju escapes safely with the unexpected help of Ageha, but the wounded Shuri flees as a stowaway aboard a ship headed to Okinawa. His experiences on the prosperous, democratic island cause Shuri to reconsider his philosophy.

Washed ashore after a typhoon swamps her ship, Sarasa overhears a deadly argument. Luckily she is found by one of Doctor Basho's pupils. Unfortunately, he's also the brother of the murderer she heard —presidential candidate Governor Unten! Despite her handicap, Sarasa survives an attempt on her life and foils a plot to murder President Asato. In doing so, she runs into Shuri. But the sweetness of their reunion is brief, for they fail to stop another attack on the President. While Shuri defends Okinawa from the Japanese, Sarasa has taken it upon herself to protect the President.



Sarasa (disguised as Tataru)

When Sarasa and her twin brother Tataru were born, a prophecy was made. "This is a child of destiny..." The people of Byakko Village assumed Tataru was the "Boy of Destiny," and Sarasa grew up mostly in his shadow. When the Red King's forces kill Tataru, Sarasa takes up her brother's name and fights in his guise, not realizing that she is the real Child of Destiny. Only visits to hot springs offer Sarasa the privacy to indulge her true identity. There, she has met a curious young man named Shuri, who has become her only outlet for being completely herself.



The Red King

In charge of Midwestern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, he is the youngest of the King of Japan's four sons. Prophesied to bring misfortune, King Ukon branded him a slave. Only a privileged few call him by his name—Shuri. Hounded by threats from abroad and his family, he is a ruthless but effective ruler, crushing those who oppose him. The destruction of Byakko Village is just one in a long list of rebel groups he has suppressed. Ignorant of her secret identity and hiding his own, Shuri's interactions with Sarasa reveal hints of his unhealthy family history and his desire to unite Japan in peace. Seemingly intent on courting, he has given Sarasa a whistle to call a carrier parrot so they might write to each other during their travels.



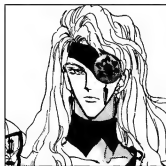
Governor Unten

Running for Okinawa's presidency, he believes his nation must be ready to fight to keep its independence.



Doctor Basho

Keenly perceptive with an acerbic wit, this mentor of Nagi is a highly skilled physician who resides in Okinawa.



Ageha

Capable of staying the hand of a King and arranging for 1000 head of cattle on short notice, this mysterious desert

nomad seems to be extremely informed and influential. He also has a secret identity—Kicho, a famous performer among a traveling troupe of dancing ladies. Ageha lost his left eye when the Red King blinded it as payment for his rescue of 12-year-old Sarasa. Now, he is "Tatara's" slightly mercenary ally. Ageha uses his owl companion, Kagero, to carry messages to his contacts.



Yuna

Strong, smart and skilled in karate, Yuna is one of Doctor Basho's pupils and is engaged to Okinawa's incumbent president, Asato.



Nakijin

Serious, kind and skilled in karate, Nakijin is one of Doctor Basho's pupils, a longtime friend of Yuna's and the brother of the Okinawan presidential candidate Unten.



Senju

Her ladylike demeanor hides this princess' passionate heart. Fear for her fiancée's safety spurred her to drastic-

ly improper actions. A late-night visit to Shido ended in a secret marriage prior to his hunt for Tatara in southern Kyushu. She is now pregnant with Shido's child.



President Asato

Determined not to turn his country into a battlefield, he strives to keep Okinawa independent while avoiding war with Japan.

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VERDEGRIS TALE 7:
PROMISE



THEY'RE
COMING!



THE
ASSASSINS
UNTEN
SENT...

THEY'RE
COMING!

TINY TAM-TAM TIME ①

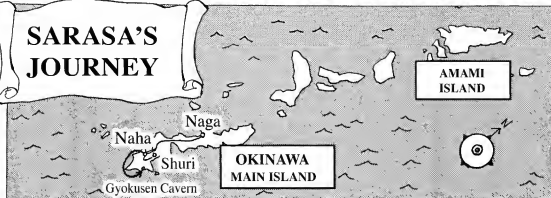
We're on the 10th volume. 10!
It's like a dream! ♡
And it'll keep going, thanks to all your
support. Thank you so much! ♡

I often get letters from people
who wish they could enter the
world of Basara. They want to
help Sarasa... You're all so nice!

Thanks! ...



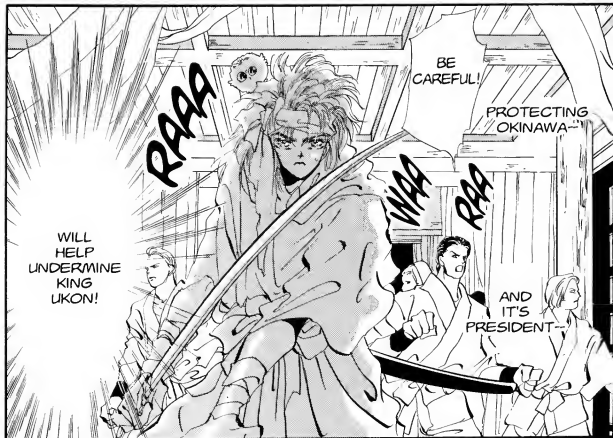
SARASA'S JOURNEY



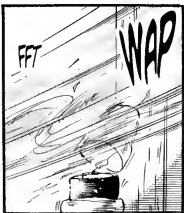


THEY'RE
THE
SAME
AS
OURS.

OKINAWA'S
ENEMIES...



A
BREEZE...!?













THE
RED KING,
THE BLUE
KING...
AND THEIR
FATHER,
KING UKON!

AND THEY
ALWAYS
THINK IT
WORKS!

THEY
REFUSE
TO TALK...

THEN
THEY
STRIKE
VIOLENTLY...



THEY'RE
ALL
THE
SAME!



SARASA!

BOOM!











I
HANG
MY
HEAD
IN
SHAME.

KAKU
WAS
INJURED.

THAT'S
WHY WE
COULDN'T
GO
ANYWHERE.



STILL,
IT'S
GOOD
TO SEE
YOU'RE
WELL.

HOW
DOES HE
KNOW
THESE
THINGS?

MASTER
NAGI
INSISTED
THAT YOU
WERE
SAFE,
SARASA,

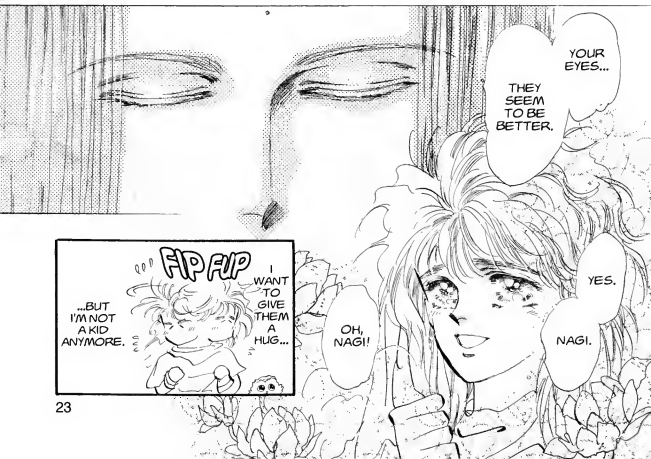
SO I
WASN'T
TOO
WORRIED.



WE
MANAGED
TO GET
HERE
AFTER
THE
TYPHOON!

WE'VE
BEEN
BUSY
FIXIN'
UP THE
SHIP.
WE'RE
ALMOST
DONE.

IT'S
ERIC THE
RED'S
SECRET
HIDEOUT!



YOUR
EYES...

THEY
SEEM
TO BE
BETTER.

YES.

NAGI.

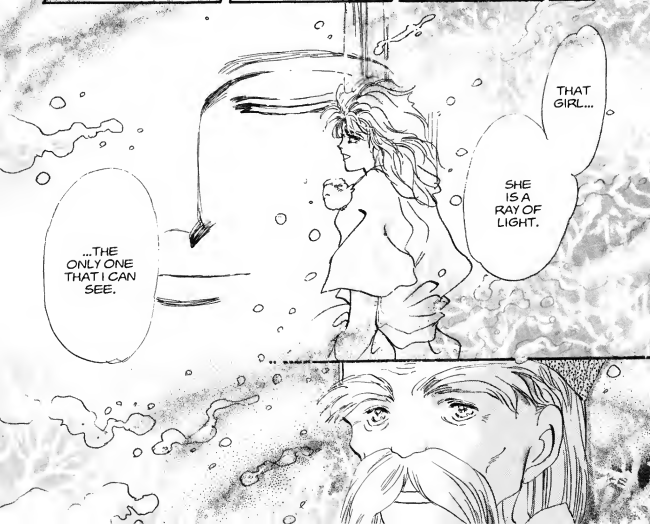
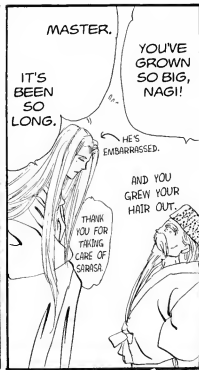
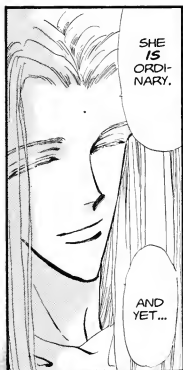
OH,
NAGI!



...BUT
I'M NOT
AKID
ANYMORE.

FIP FIP

I
WANT
TO GIVE
THEM
A HUG...





...HE
GOT
AWAY!

THEN
HE'S NO
ORDINARY
MAN.

THAT
ASSASSIN
WAS
STILL
ALIVE!?



WHAT
IS
IT?

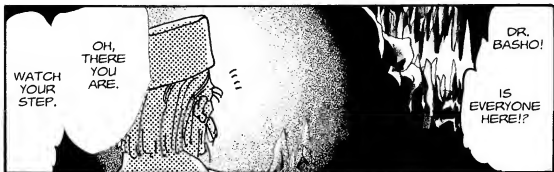
I ONLY
LOOKED
AWAY
FOR A
SECOND
AND...



GOOD,
GOOD.

IT
MAKES
ME HAPPY
THAT
YOU'RE
AT
PEACE.

DR.
BASHO!



WATCH
YOUR
STEP.

OH,
THERE
YOU
ARE.

DR.
BASHO!

IS
EVERYONE
HERE!?



ARE
WE
AT
WAR
NOW
!?

WHAT!?

UNTEN IS
LOADING
HIS
SHIPS
WITH
WEAPONS.

HE'S
ABOUT
TO LEAVE
FROM NAHA
HARBOR.



HFF
HFF
...

HE'S
BEEN
WATCHING
UNTEN.

WELL
...

WHAT'S
UP?



THEY'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
SHURI'S
SHIP!

I HEARD
THEY WERE
GOING TO SINK
THE GHOST SHIP
THAT'S HAUNTING
THE SEA
AROUND AMAMI.

NO...

THAT'S
NOT
IT...

THE CREW
DIDN'T
SEEM TO
KNOW WHAT
WAS GOING
ON, EITHER.



I'M
SURE.

DR. BASHO,
WILL THE
PRESIDENT
BE SAFE
HERE?



IF WORST
COMES
TO
WORST,
WE CAN
SAIL OUT

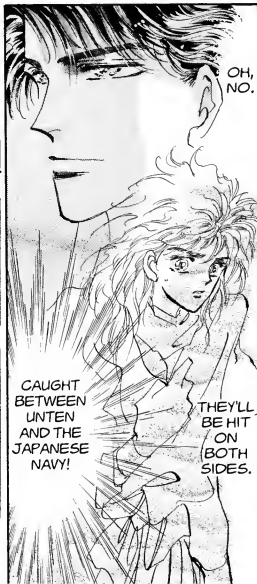
AND THE
CAVES ARE
LIKE A
MAZE.

I FEEL
SAFE
WITH
THESE
PEOPLE.



I'D LIKE
TO LEAVE
YOU IN
CHARGE.

IN
THAT
CASE
...



OH,
NO.

CAUGHT
BETWEEN
UNTEN
AND THE
JAPANESE
NAVY!

THEY'LL
BE HIT
ON
BOTH
SIDES.



HE
WANTS
TO SPEAK
WITH YOU.

THE
PRESIDENT
IS
AWAKE.

SARASA.

IT'S
SO
DARK.

WE'RE
INSIDE
GYOKUSEN
CAVERN,
MR.
PRESIDENT.

A DREAM
ABOUT
THE DAY
I TALKED
TO UNTEN.

I
HAD...

...A
DREAM.

...A
PROMISE.

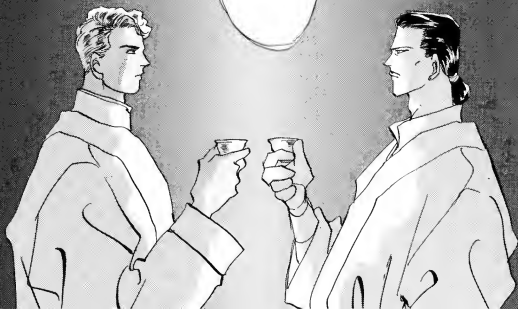
WE
MADE...

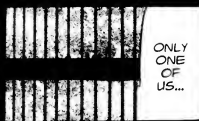
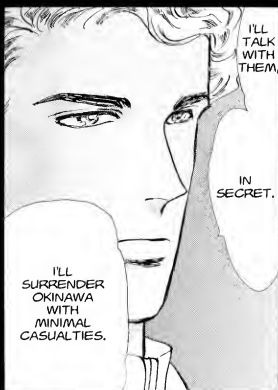
WE
TOASTED
WITH
AWAMORI
TO OUR
FINAL
PARTING.



IT WAS A
WARM
SPRING
NIGHT,
LONG
AGO.

NOW...
WE
MUST
BE
ENEMIES.





UPON
MY
SOUL.



FRIEND.

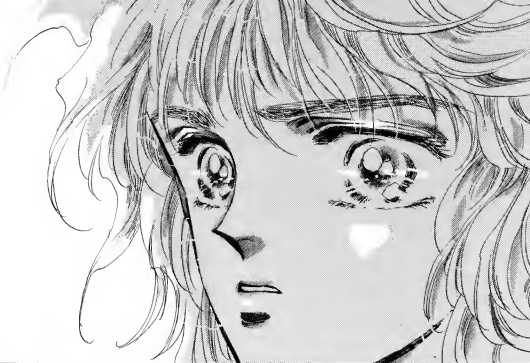
THIS
I VOW--

WE
WILL
NEVER--

MAKE
ASHES
OF OUR
HOME-
LAND!



THEN
LET US
NOW BE
ENEMIES.



UNTEN

...

...TO
PROTECT
THE
PRIDE
OF HIS
COUNTRY.

HE
FOR-
SOOK
HIS
PRIDE...



I NEVER
DID BELIEVE
HE WAS THE
TYPE TO
SELL HIS
COUNTRY
FOR
PERSONAL
GAIN.

NOW
IT ALL
MAKES
SENSE.



UNTEN

...

...GOT
THE
BITTER
END OF
THE
DEAL.



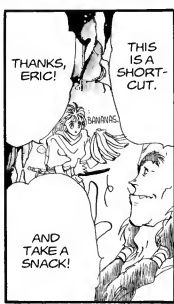
HE
RESOLVED
TO HAVE
BLOOD
OF
ICE.

TO
PROTECT
HIS
COUNTRY
...



HER MIND IS ELSE-WHERE

FROM THE LOOK OF IT...







I'LL
GO
ANY-
WHERE.

FOR
YOU...

SARASA.

THEY
ARE
THE
ONLY
PEOPLE
WITH
WHOM
YOU
SHARE
YOUR
BLOOD.

WHAT
IS
THEIR
REASON
TO
BE?

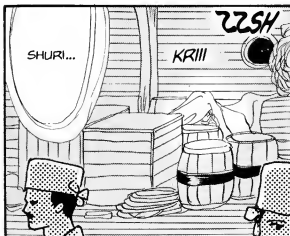
WHAT
DOES
IT
MEAN
TO BE
SIBLINGS?



THEN
TAKE
CARE
OF IT
NOW!



THIS
"GHOST
SHIP"
HAS TO BE
AN OKINAWAN
CONSPIRACY!





THEY
MUST'VE
CHANGED
THEIR
STRATEGY.

I HAVEN'T
SEEN THE
JAPANESE
SHIPS
IN A
COUPLE
OF DAYS.



SHURI
...



THEY
MAY BE
PLANNING
A FULL
ASSAULT
SOON.

...KEEP
NAKIJIN
SAFE.



IT'S
TAKEN
TOO
LONG!



WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE
MAN WHO
WENT TO
FIND
SARASA!?



ENOUGH
OF
THIS!



HOW OLD ARE YOU!?



I HATE CLUTTER!

YOU SOUND LIKE A NAGGING WIFE!



TAKE IT OFF IN ONE PILE!

OH, WHO CARES!?



I'M...

WAIT!

HOW OLD?



I MISSED IT!

MY BIRTHDAY!

WHAT IS IT!?



DON'T SCARE US LIKE THAT!

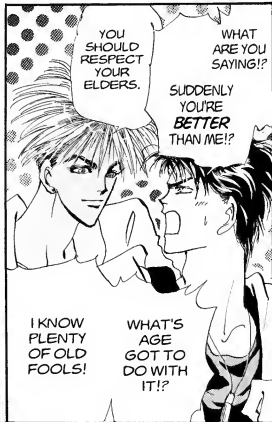
SO WHAT?

WE HAD FIREWORKS, AND A PARTY FOR THE WHOLE CITY!

I HAD A CELEBRATION EVERY YEAR!



DAMN IT!





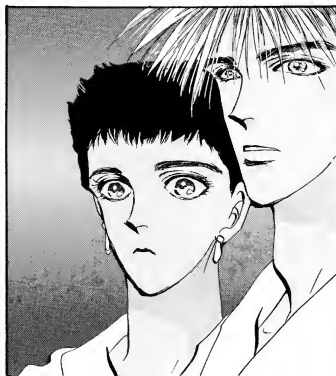
RED
KING!



I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU
SINCE I
SANK
THE
CRIMSON.



IT'S
BEEN
A
WHILE,
SIR
HENRY.



WHOSE
SHIPS
ARE
THOSE?



THEY'RE
FROM
EUROPE.

IT'S
THE
UNION
FLEET.

VERTICAL TAM-
TAM TIME ①



STATS ON ASAGI:



BORN:

May 13, Taurus.

BLOOD TYPE:

AB

One year older than Shuri,
but shorter. His favorite
gem is the sapphire.

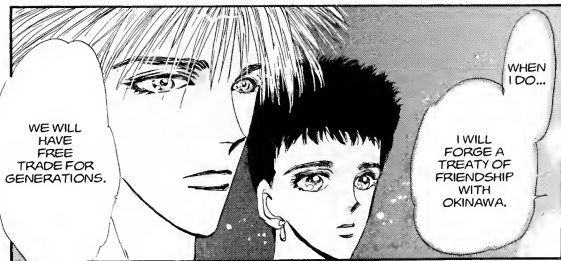
He often removes his forehead
jewel to avoid tan lines.

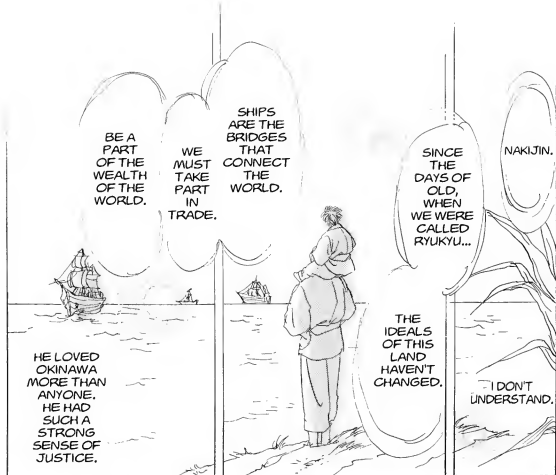
TAMU













THEY
ARE
ENEMIES
OF
OKINAWA!

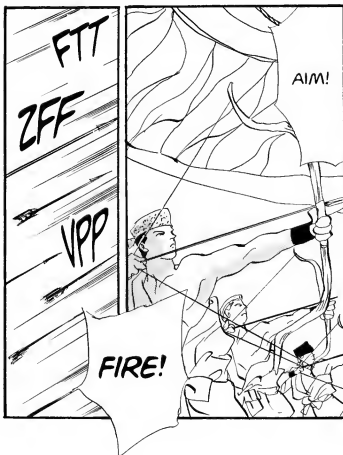
2SH

YES!

CLOSE
IN AND
PEPPER
THEM
WITH
ARROWS!



DON'T
LET
THESE
DECEIVERS
GET
AWAY!



FTT
ZFF

VPP

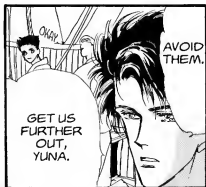
FIRE!

AIM!



OKINAWAN
SHIPS.

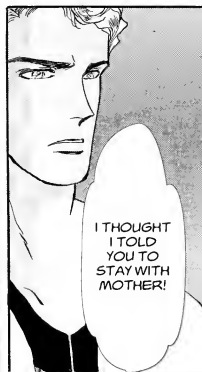
HEY.



AVOID
THEM.

GET US
FURTHER
OUT,
YUNA.

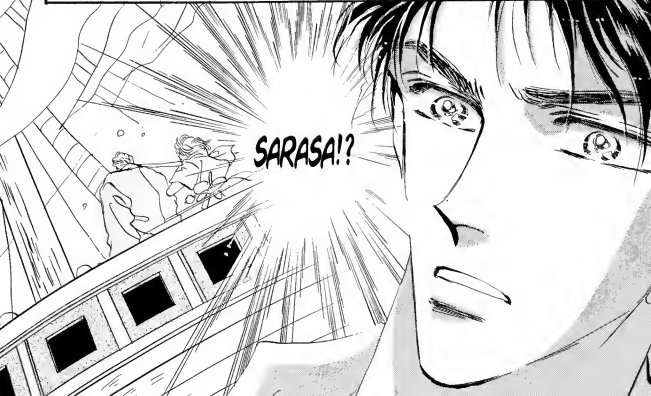
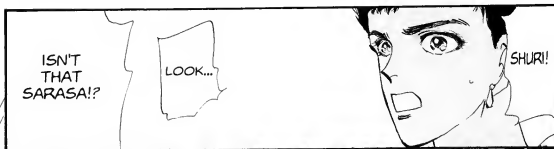


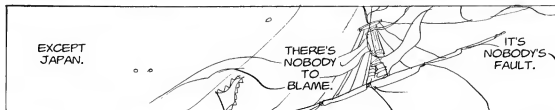














WAR...!



THEY'RE
HERE!

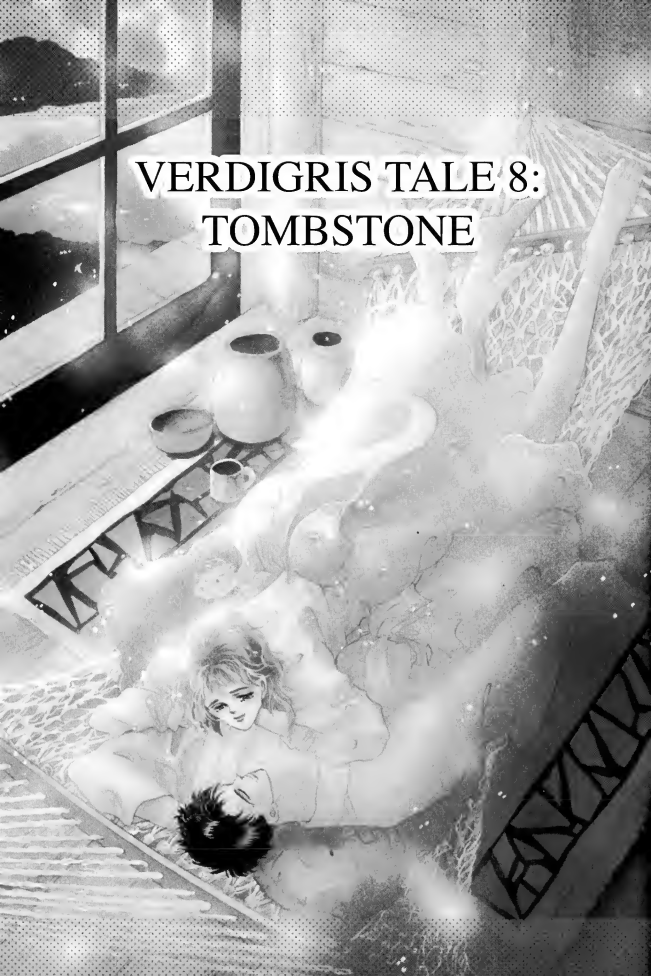


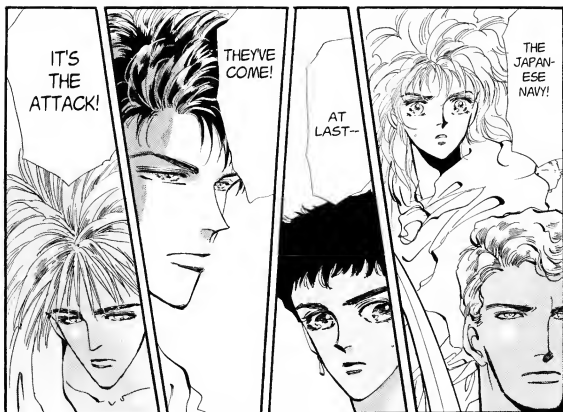
NOW...

THERE
WILL
BE A
FULL-
SCALE
WAR.

IT'S THE
JAPANESE
NAVY.

VERDIGRIS TALE 8: TOMBSTONE





TINY TAM-TAM TIME ②

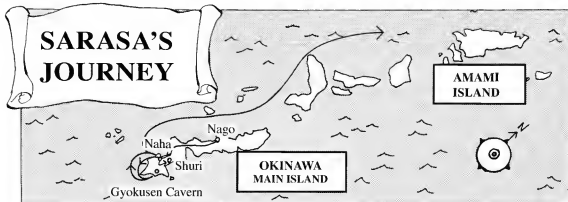
I get letters from readers in Taiwan once in a while!! I knew they sold Japanese manga there, but I was surprised to get letters! It makes me so happy.

Please keep reading! ♡ =

TAMU.



SARASA'S JOURNEY





GOT
IT,
YUNA?

ALL
WE
HAVE
TO DO
IS NOT
GET
HIT.

HOW
DO WE
DO
THAT!?

EASY
FOR
YOU
TO
SAY.



THEY'RE
NOT
EVEN
BATTLE-
SHIPS.

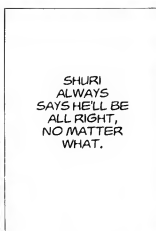
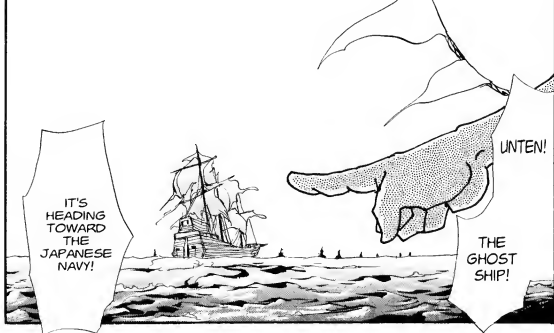
THEY
MIGHT
HAVE
A FEW
CANNONS,
THOUGH.



THERE
AREN'T
MANY
OF
THEM.









I WON'T
DIE!

HOW
IS HE
SO
SURE...!?

IS THERE
HOPE...

DOES
THAT
MEAN...

I SEE
THEY'RE
KEEPING
WATCH.

AND
IF WE
LOSE
HERE...

PLEASE
HELP
THEM.

UNTEN.

...TO
SAVE
OKINAWA
FROM
THE
FLAMES
OF WAR?

THEY'RE
STILL
GIVING
US A
CHANCE?

A SHIP
PRETENDING
TO BE A
FISHING
VESSEL.

OKINAWA
WILL
BE A
SEA OF
FLAMES.

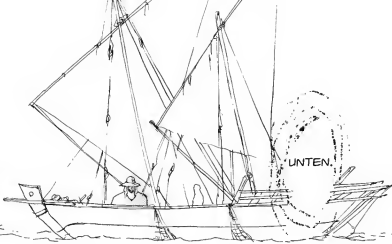
WE
HAVE A
COMMON
ENEMY--
THE
JAPANESE
NAVY.



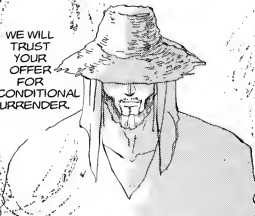
LET'S
SEE
YOUR
GOOD
FAITH.



UNTEN.



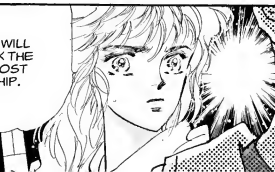
WE WILL
WITHDRAW
ALL OUR
MEN.



WE WILL
TRUST
YOUR
OFFER
FOR
UNCONDITIONAL
SURRENDER.



IF YOU
SINK
THAT
GHOST
SHIP...

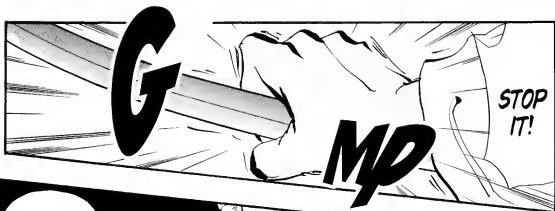


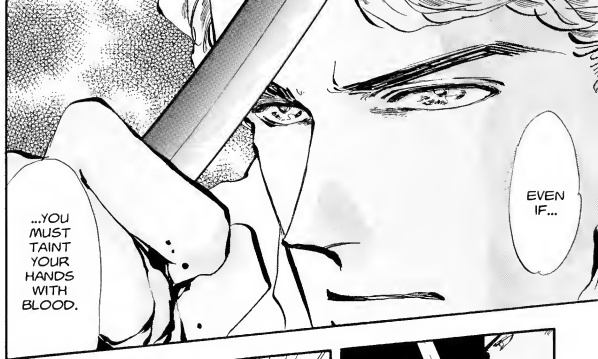
WE WILL
SINK THE
GHOST
SHIP.



KEEP
GOING.







...YOU
MUST
TAINT
YOUR
HANDS
WITH
BLOOD.

EVEN
IF...



BAM

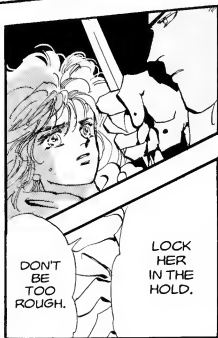
KCH

OW...



THD

AND
STAY
THERE!



DON'T
BE
TOO
ROUGH.

LOCK
HER
IN THE
HOLD.



ARG!

BUT
STILL!

OPEN
THE
DOOR!

DM



SURE.

I HAVE
MANY
THINGS
TO
PROTECT.

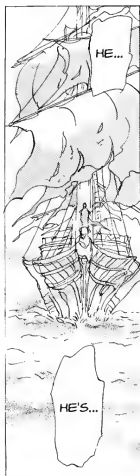


RED
SAILS...

LOOK,
SIR!

COMMANDER,
ISN'T
THAT
THE
GHOST
SHIP!?

SH



HE...

HE'S...



I
SEE...

A
MAN...



THERE'S
SOMEONE
ON THE
BOW!

SEE?

PREPARE
FOR
ATTACK!



IT'S
COMING
THIS
WAY!

STAY
CALM!



IT'S AN
OKINAWAN
CONSPIRACY.

GHOSTS
DON'T
EXIST!









IF HE'S ON OKINAWA'S SIDE...

HE'S OUR ENEMY!

I SAID ATTACK!



BUT IT'S THE RED KING!

AND EVEN IF IT WERE HIM...

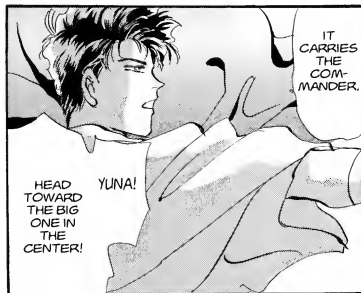
IT'S A LOOK-ALIKE, THAT'S ALL!



ATTACK!

HEY...

WHY AREN'T YOU DOING ANYTHING?



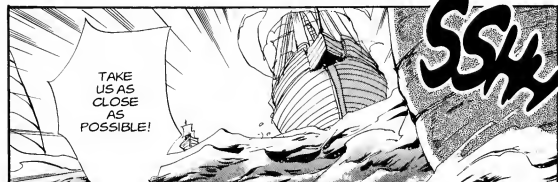
IT CARRIES THE COMMANDER.

HEAD TOWARD THE BIG ONE IN THE CENTER!

YUNA!



THAT SHIP.



TAKE US AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE!



FOLLOW
ME!



DON'T
JUST
STAND
THERE!

THEY'RE
GOING
TO
HIT!

SIR!

IT'S
HEADING
STRAIGHT
FOR US!

ATTACK!



YUNA.

WATCH
OUT
FOR
CANNON
FIRE.

YOU
HAVE
THE
SHIP.



YEE!



GOT
IT.





YEAH,
I AM.



YOU'RE
OLDER
THAN
ME,
RIGHT?



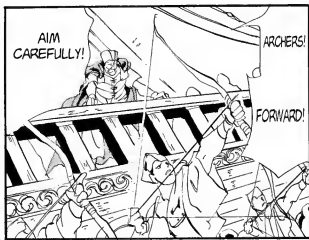
HE'S A
BUFFOON
WHO
COULDN'T
GET
PROMOTED
IN MY
TIME.

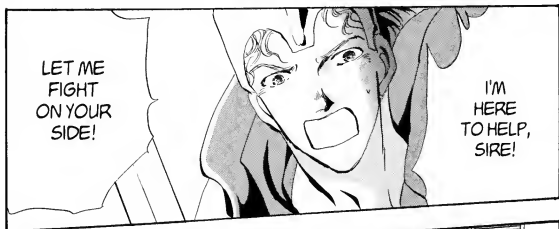
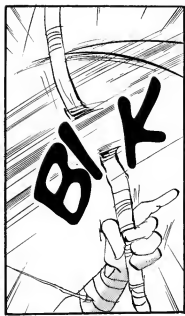
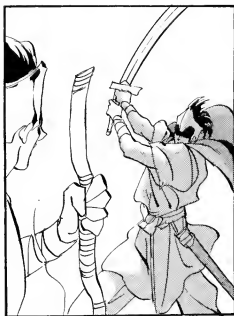


THERE'S
THE
COMMANDER.

ALL
RIGHT!
LISTEN
UP!









PLEASE!

COME
BACK TO
SUO!



LORD
MOMONOI'S
MEN HAVE
BROUGHT
IN SLAVES--

HIS MEN
RAMPAGE
THROUGH
THE CITY--

SO THE
MERCHANTS
HAVE
STOPPED
COMING--
AND THE
CITY IS
DESOLATE!

THEY'VE
PUT UP
CHECKPOINTS
WHERE THEY
TAKE
EXPENSIVE
TOLLS.



UM.

PLEASE,
TAKE
ME.

UMM

SIRE.



HEH.

THANK
YOU.

IS
THAT
SO?



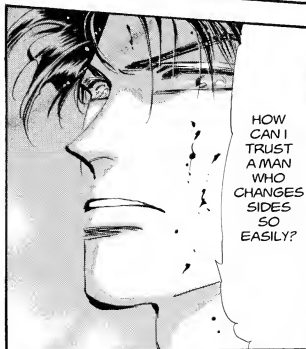
YES.

I
REMEMBER
YOUR
FACE.

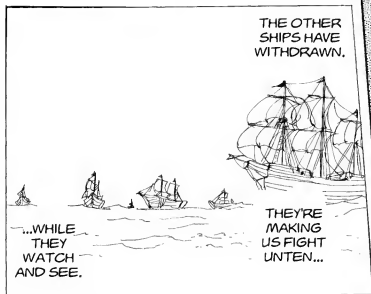
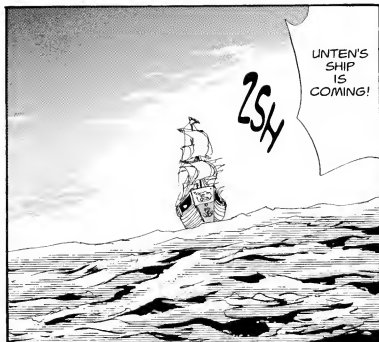


I WAS
PLANNING
TO MAKE A
COMEBACK.

IS THERE
ANYONE
ELSE WHO
WILL
JOIN
ME?









AIM
CAREFULLY!



THAT
FISHING
SHIP...

DAWN!



THAT
MEANS...

THERE
MUST
BE
SOME-
ONE
ELSE
GIVING
ORDERS.

THIS
GUY WAS
PROPPED
UP FOR
SHOW.

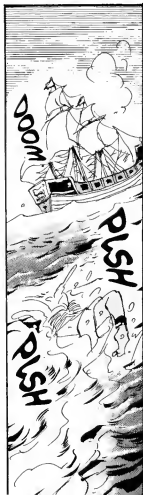
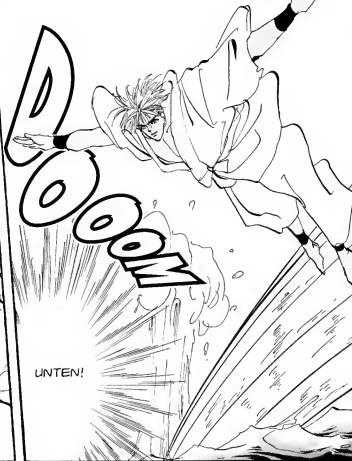


UNTEN...

THESE
FOREIGN
CANNONS
ARE EXPENSIVE,
AND WE
DON'T HAVE
MANY!

WE
CAN'T
AFFORD
A MISS!

FIRE!









UNTEN!



UNTEN!



UNTEN!



KA

SH

YOUR
ABILITY
IS STILL
FIRST-RATE.

YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED.

AS THE
IRIOMOTE
WILDCAT...

YOU'RE
AS
AGILE...

HE CAME
ACROSS A
STORM OFF
IT'S SHORE,
WHICH SANK
HIS SHIP.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

IRIOMOTE...
THE ISLAND
WHERE DAD
DIED?

BEYOND
THIS OCEAN
LIES UTOPIA...
WHAT WE CALL
"NIRAIKANAI."

YOU
SHOULD
GO SEE
IT SOME
TIME.

THERE'S A
MEMORIAL
TOMBSTONE
ON THE
ISLAND.



YOU'LL
STAY
HERE...

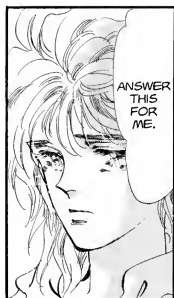
I'LL GO
OUT INTO
THE WORLD
TO WORK.

...TO
PROTECT
OUR HOME
AND
MOTHER.



STOP!







ASAGI'S DAY:

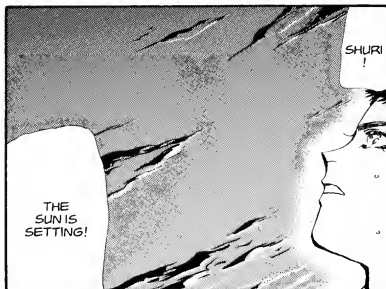
MORNING.



He has low- blood pressure, so he has a hard time getting up.

He likes to sleep in the buff.





THE
SUN IS
SETTING!

SHURI
!



YUNA!
ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT
!?

WE'RE
HOLDING
OUT!



YOU'RE
CONFIDENT!

SO I GUESS
YOU'RE
PREPARED
TO TAKE ON
EUROPE,
TOO!



HEY,
YOU!

IF YOU
CAN
HEAR
MY
VOICE,
THEN
LISTEN!

THE ONE
WATCHING
FROM THE
FISHING
SHIP!



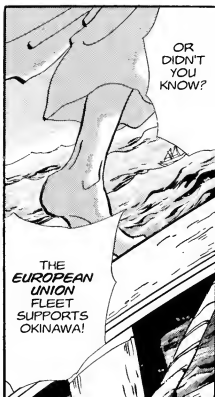
YOU
THINK
IT'S A
LIE?

OR IS IT
JUST TOO
MUCH FOR
YOUR LITTLE
BRAIN TO
IMAGINE!?



HE
MUST BE
DESPERATE
TO SAY
THAT.

AS IF
WE'D
BELIEVE
IT.

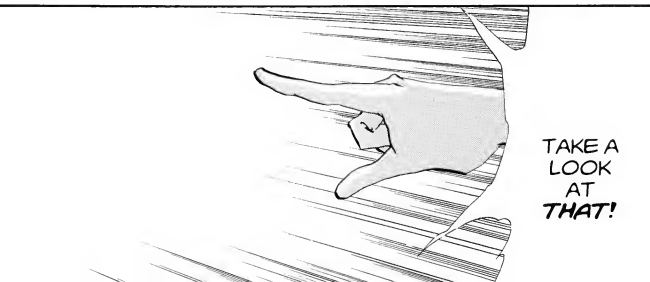


OR
DIDN'T
YOU
KNOW?

THE
EUROPEAN
UNION
FLEET
SUPPORTS
OKINAWA!



WELL...



TAKE A
LOOK
AT
THAT!



BOOM

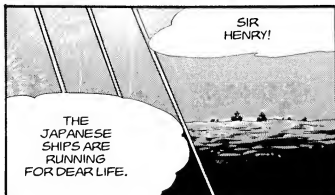
BOOM

D-Boom

HYUU

HYUU







I LIKE THAT
YOUNG MAN.



IF YOU
KNEW,
THEN
WHY...?

HE JUST
MADE FOOLS
OUT OF
OUR FLEET!



WERE WE
BEING
USED BY
THAT YOUNG
MAN?

**PMM PMM
POOM**

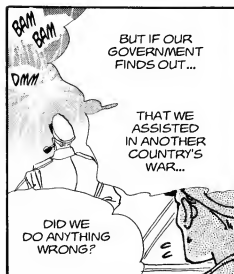
YOU
ONLY JUST
REALIZED
THAT?



BUT WHEN
HE CAME
TO ME,
HE DIDN'T
DOUBT FOR A
MINUTE THAT
I WOULD
COOPERATE.

**BAM
DMM**

HE WAS CHASED
OFF HIS THRONE,
AND HE'S
NOBODY NOW.



**BAM
BAM
DMM**

BUT IF OUR
GOVERNMENT
FINDS OUT...

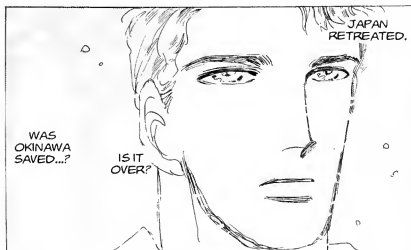
THAT WE
ASSISTED
IN ANOTHER
COUNTRY'S
WAR...

DID WE
DO ANYTHING
WRONG?



HE IS
A MAN...

...WHO
KNOWS HIS
WORTH.

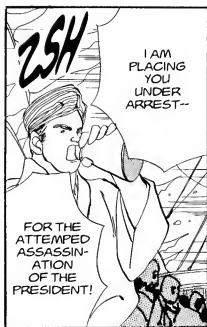
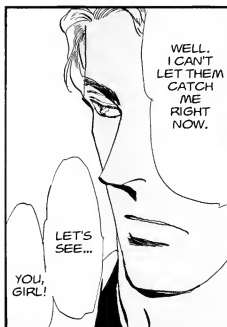




MR.
PRESIDENT...

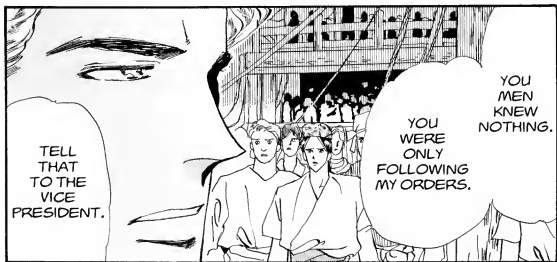


DID YOU
WIN THIS
ONE?

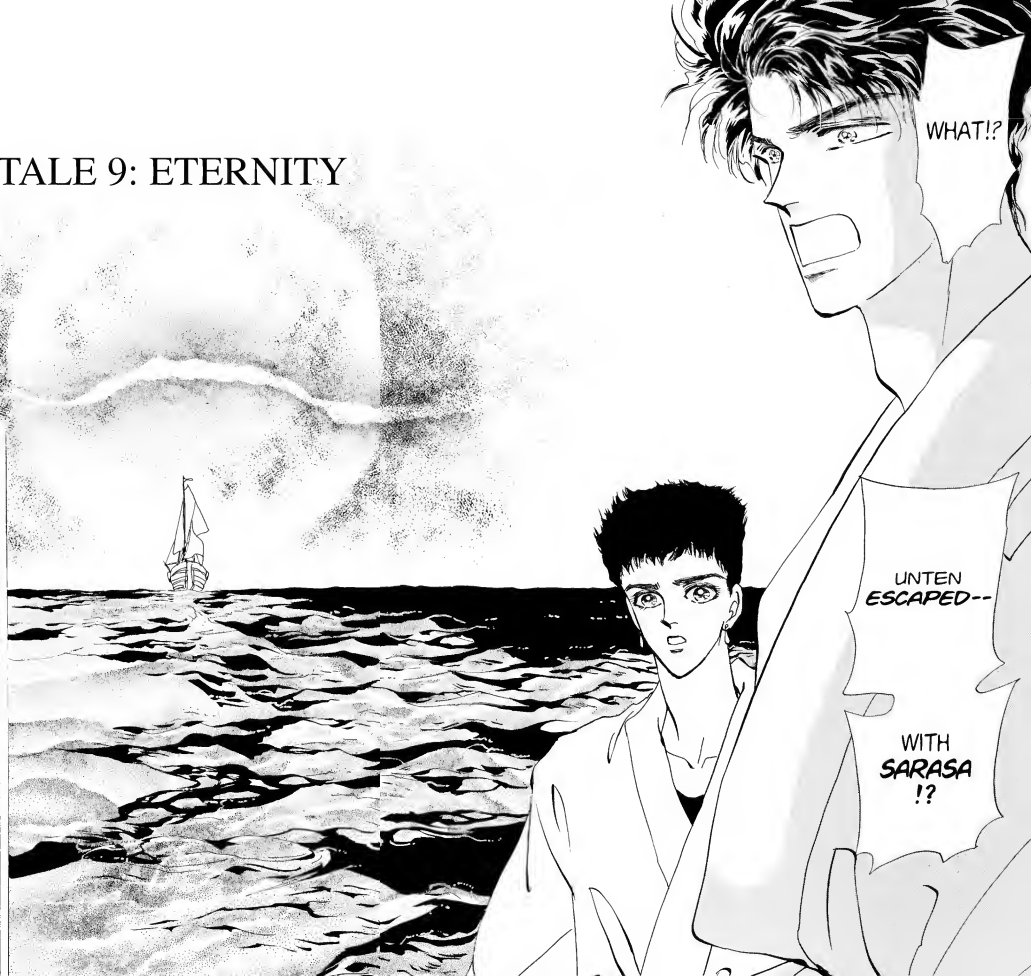




VERDIGRIS TALE 9: ETERNITY



VERDIGRIS TALE 9: ETERNITY



WHAT!?

UNTEN
ESCAPED--

WITH
SARASA
!?



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ③

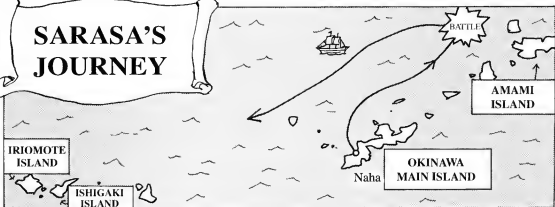
I've been thinking... Sometimes people write me, "Please write back by this date," or "We're having an event on such and such a day, so please get in touch." I get these letters via the editorial dept, so I receive them long after they were sent. The date's come and gone! ?



It takes at least a month, sometimes even three, for a letter to reach me. So I can't do anything that needs urgent attention. Sorry! ? Of course if the editors notice any flowers or food, they'll send them right away. ♡ Not that I'm asking for any...!

Thanks for the many birthday presents!!! TAHU

SARASA'S JOURNEY



THAT THE
PRESIDENT
HAD A
BACKUP PLAN
TO LOSE TO
JAPAN?

AND
THEN?

WHAT
WOULD
I SAY?

IN MY
SECRET
DEAL WITH
THE
ENEMY?

BUT HE
ACTUALLY
CONSPIRED
WITH ME...

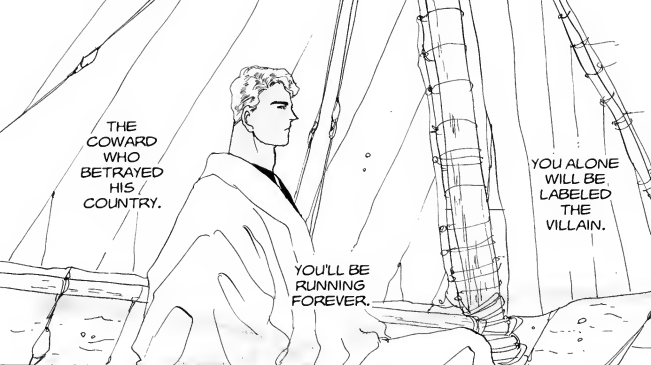
THAT HE
PLEGGED
TO
PROTECT
OKINAWA,



...WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

BUT
THEN...

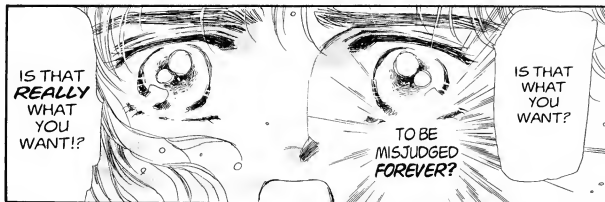
BUT... --



THE
COWARD
WHO
BETRAYED
HIS
COUNTRY.

YOU ALONE
WILL BE
LABELED
THE
VILLAIN.

YOU'LL BE
RUNNING
FOREVER.



IS THAT
REALLY
WHAT
YOU
WANT!?

IS THAT
WHAT
YOU
WANT?

TO BE
MISJUDGED
FOREVER?



**FIND
HIM,
DAMN
IT!**

NAKIJIN!

DO YOU
KNOW
WHERE
YOUR
BROTHER
MIGHT'VE
GONE!?



RRR!

WHERE
DID UNTEN
GO!?

I DON'T
KNOW!
THE CREW
SAYS HE
HEADED
SOUTH!



...EAT,
THEN
GET
SOME
SLEEP.

WE'LL BE
AT SEA
FOR A
WHILE.



SHURI!

PLEASE
DON'T
BLAME
NAKIJIN!



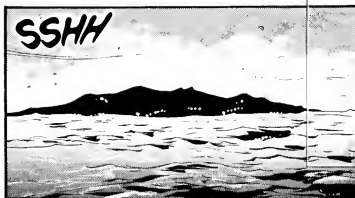
HE
MIGHT
HAVE
GONE...

...TO
IRIO-
MOTE.



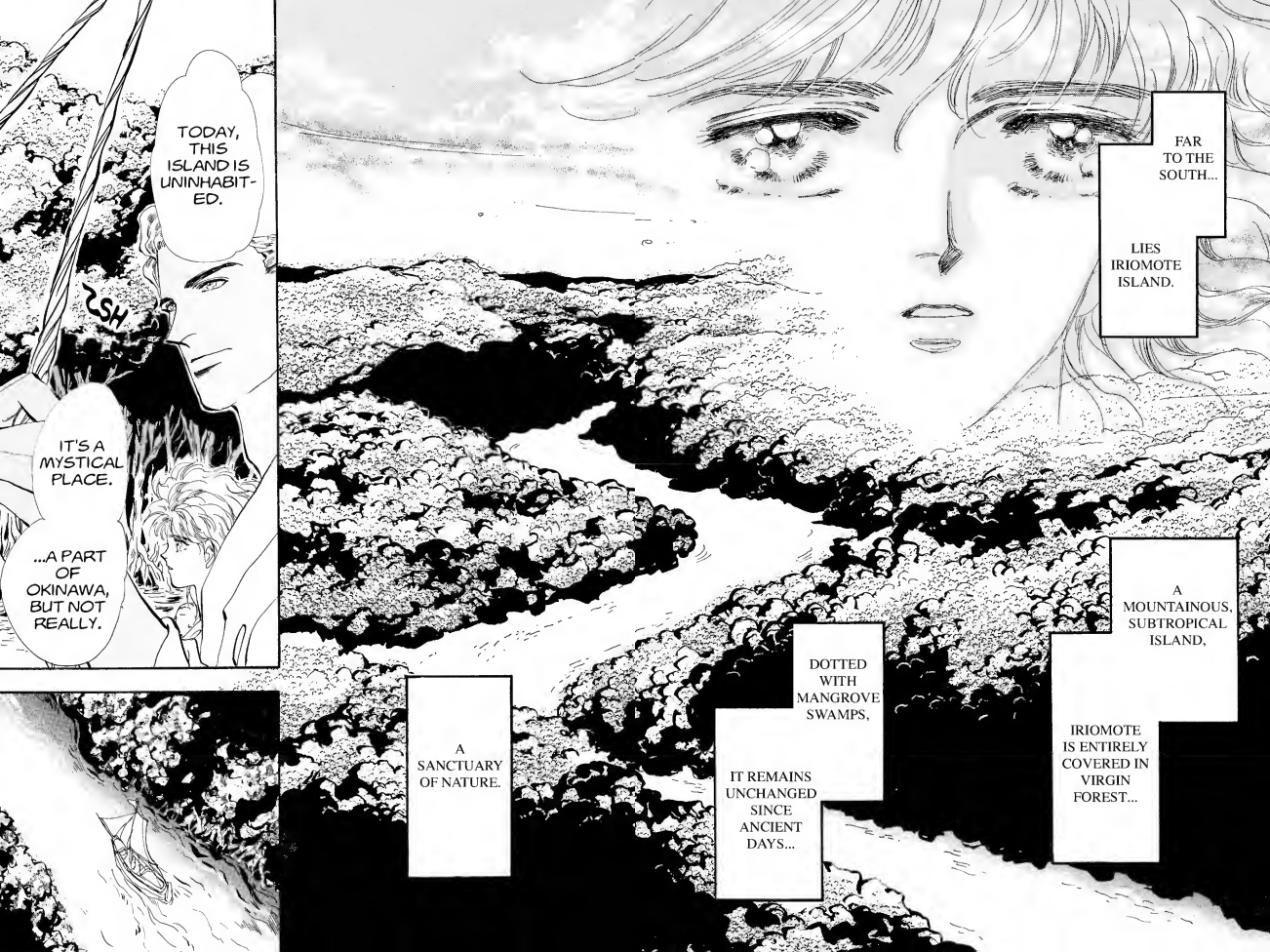
IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENS
TO
SARASA--

I'LL BURN
OKINAWA
TO THE
GROUND!



...OUR
FATHER'S
CENOTAPH.

GONE
TO
SEE...



TODAY,
THIS
ISLAND IS
UNINHABIT-
ED.

IT'S A
MYSTICAL
PLACE.

...A PART
OF
OKINAWA,
BUT NOT
REALLY.

FAR
TO THE
SOUTH...

LIES
IRIOMOTE
ISLAND.

A
MOUNTAINOUS,
SUBTROPICAL
ISLAND.

IRIOMOTE
IS ENTIRELY
COVERED IN
VIRGIN
FOREST...

DOTTED
WITH
MANGROVE
SWAMPS.

IT REMAINS
UNCHANGED
SINCE
ANCIENT
DAYS...

A
SANCTUARY
OF NATURE.



COCONUT
CRABS ARE
GOOD,
TOO,

BUT SOME-
TIMES THEY
BOTHR
YOUR
STOMACH.

THERE'S
A KIND OF
BLUE
CRAB
HERE WE
CALL
"GASAN."



WE
SHOULD
CATCH
OUR-
SELVES
SOME
FISH,

ROAST
THEM
FOR
DINNER.

WATCH OUT
FOR PIT
VIPERS AND
SCORPIONS

I CAN COOK
JUST AS
WELL AS
NAKIJIN.



IS
HE
HAPPY...

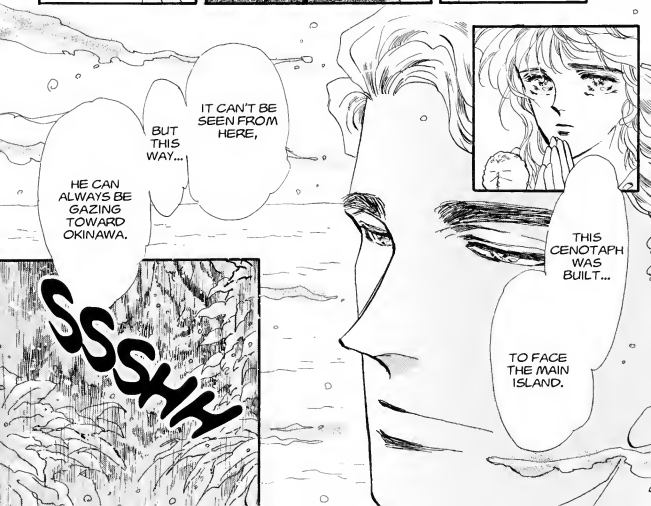
EVEN IF HE
HAS TO BE
EXILED?

THAT
OKINAWA
WAS
SAVED?



THE
STONY
MASK
OVER HIS
FACE IS
GONE.

IS HE
HAPPY
NOW?



ASAGI'S DAY:

NOON



He's gotten pretty fond of cooking.

He likes to make up his own recipes and say things like, "Maybe I'll toss in a few toadstools this time. Heh, heh."

TAMU.



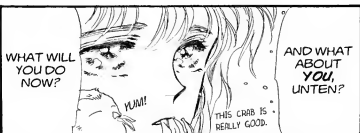
SSHH

...SARASA,
WAS IT?

I'VE DONE
YOU A GREAT
DISSERVICE.

I'LL TAKE
YOU BACK
UP TO
ISHIGAKI
ISLAND.

ONCE IT
STOPS
RAINING...

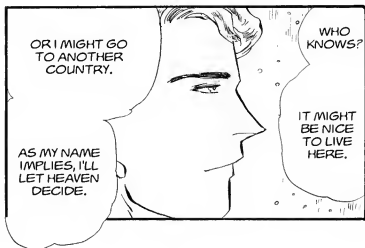


WHAT WILL
YOU DO
NOW?

AND WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
UNTEN?

MUM!

THIS CRAB IS
REALLY GOOD.

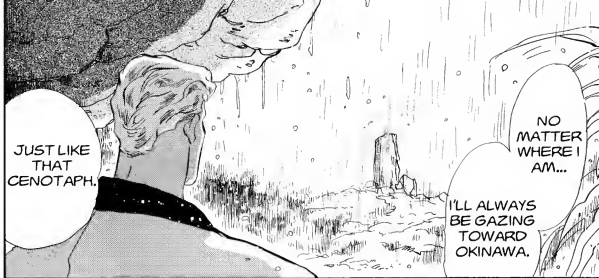


OR I MIGHT GO
TO ANOTHER
COUNTRY.

WHO
KNOWS?

AS MY NAME
IMPLIES, I'LL
LET HEAVEN
DECIDE.

IT MIGHT
BE NICE
TO LIVE
HERE.



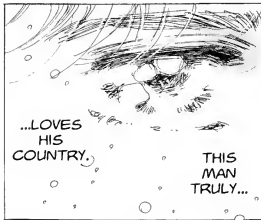
JUST LIKE
THAT
CENOTAPH.

NO
MATTER
WHERE I
AM...

I'LL ALWAYS
BE GAZING
TOWARD
OKINAWA.

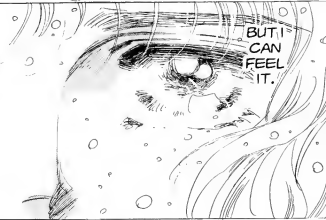


HE CAN
NEVER GO
BACK
AGAIN!



...LOVES
HIS
COUNTRY.

THIS
MAN
TRULY...



BUT I
CAN
FEEL
IT.



AH,
WELL,

THIS IS
WHAT I
CHOSE
FOR
MYSELF.

YES.
I AM.



AREN'T
YOU?

HEH
YOU'RE
THINKING, "HE
GOT THE
SHORT END
OF THE STICK
IN THIS DEAL."



YET...

AND
YET...



I WANTED
TO EXCEED
HIM, ONE
DAY.

HE'S WHY I
WANTED TO
BE A
POLITICIAN.

PRESIDENT
ASATO
WAS MY
ROLE
MODEL..

...EVEN IF IT
MEANT
KILLING HIM.

THIS TIME, I
WAS SURE-- I
WAS RIGHT,
AND HE WAS
WRONG.

I
WANTED
TO
WIN.

I WANTED
TO GET
THE
BETTER
OF HIM...

SHE
HAS
NAKIJIN.

IT'S ABOUT
TIME HE GREW
UP AND
BECAME A
MAN.

WHAT
ABOUT
YOUR
MO-
THER?

...YOU'RE
NOT EVEN
GOING TO
SEE HER?

NOW
THE
LOSER
FADES
OUT OF
SIGHT.

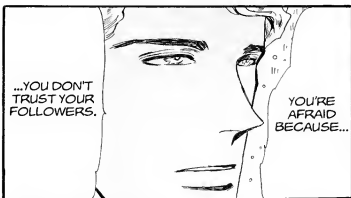
BUT IT
WASN'T
MEANT
TO BE.

HE WAS
STILL A
BETTER
MAN.













I'M THE
ONE WHO
DOESN'T
TRUST
THEM!

HE'S
RIGHT.



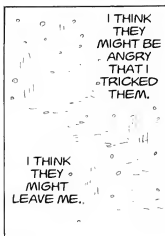
C'MON,
LET'S
EAT.

I'LL PICK
OUT THE
BONES
FOR YOU.



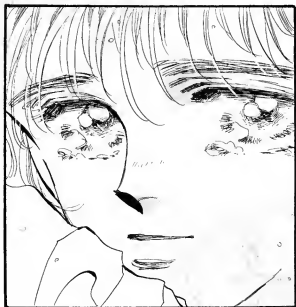
IS *THAT* WHAT
I THINK OF MY
FRIENDS!?

MY
FOLLOWERS!?



I THINK
THEY
MIGHT BE
ANGRY
THAT I
TRICKED
THEM.

I THINK
THEY
MIGHT
LEAVE ME..

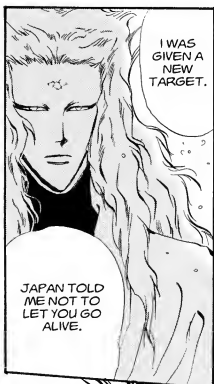
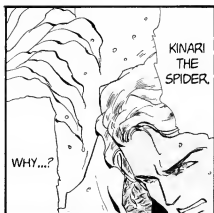




LOOK
OUT!

THAT
WEAPON--!







GOOD-BYE.

222



I DON'T PLAN TO FIGHT YOU.



H.M.

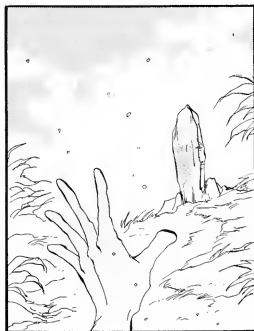
YOU'RE THE KID FROM THE CAVES.

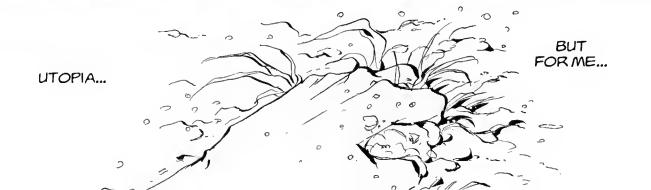
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU. YOU SEEM... DIFFERENT.



UNTEN!

.....





...OKINAWA.

...WILL
ALWAYS
BE...





UP
THERE...

WHERE
I CAN
SEE
OKINAWA.

TAKE
ME...



...OF THE
ETERNAL.



EVEN THE
FLOWERS
AND THE
BIRDS...

THEY
ALL
SING...



A
LAND
OF
BEAUTY...

AND
WARMTH.

WHERE
EVERY
ONE...



BUT HE
SAID YOU
CAN'T SEE
THE
ISLAND
FROM
HERE...



...OH...



...I
CAN
SEE
IT...

OKINAWA...





NAKI-
JIN...

YOUR
BROTHER...

HE
LOVED
IT...

SO
VERY
MUCH.

UNTEN...

HE
LOVED
OKINAWA.

UNTEN!

...NISHI FEY AGARI IRI
...NORTH SOUTH EAST WEST

ON THE BEACHES OF STAR-SHAPED SAND
OUR SISTERS PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY





YOU HAVE
TO GIVE
YUNA TO
ME.

THAT'S
WHY...

MR.
PRESI-
DENT...



SADLY, THE WIND*
HOWLS

SADLY, A DISTANT
MELODY...



UNDER AZURE SKY AND
PEARL CLOUDS

I PROMISE
I'LL COME
BACK
SAFELY.

THERE BLOOMS THE
BEACH HIBISCUS...



THE TOUCH OF SPRING
PAINTS WITH GREEN

EVEN THE LANDS
STAINED SCARLET



YOU
SHOULD
GO...

...TO
PROTECT
OKINAWA.



NAKIJIN.

ALL
YOU
DO IS
CRY.

DON'T YOU
WANT TO
GO, TOO?

MOM...





WE'LL BE
SAILING
TONIGHT.

EVERYONE
WILL BE
WAITING.



TOMORROW.

TOMORROW...



EVEN
THOUGH I
GAVE ALL
THE CREDIT
TO THE
PRESIDENT...

WHERE'S
MY
REWARD,
SARASA?



KTA
KTA

UNTEN.

WATCH
OVER
ME.

SARASA...

NO.

TATARA

THE
NORTH-
EAST IS
WAITING
FOR YOU.

GOODBYE,
OKINAWA...

SHURI!

I'M
GOING
WITH
YOU--

TO
JAPAN!

...LIKE MY
BELOVED'S
VOICE

...SADLY,
SADLY

ON THE BEACHES OF STAR-SHAPED SAND
OUR SISTERS PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY...

...NISHI FEY AGARI IRI
...NORTH SOUTH EAST WEST...





SILVER TALE 1: BONDS

*Dear Shuri,
I'm sorry.*

DEAR SHURI,
I'M SORRY.
I'M HEADING BACK TO JAPAN.

THERE ARE
THINGS I MUST DO,
SO I HAVE TO GO
NORTH.

SARASA!

SARASA...?

SARASA!!

I'M SORRY,
SHURI.

NO MORE
THAN
THIS!?

IS THIS
ALL I
MEAN
TO
YOU!?



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ④

Did you all buy, watch, and listen to the BASARA CD and music video? I printed a song about Okinawa at the end of the Okinawa arc, on pages 138-142 in this volume. The song includes "beach hibiscus" because that's what Yuna's name means. Those lyrics are a part of "Paipatiroma - Utopia" from the BASARA CD!

FORGIVE ME!

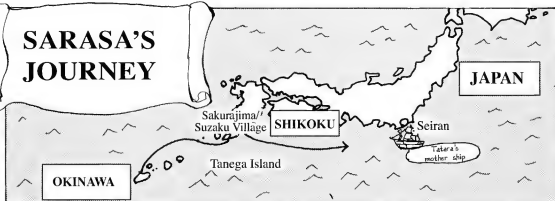


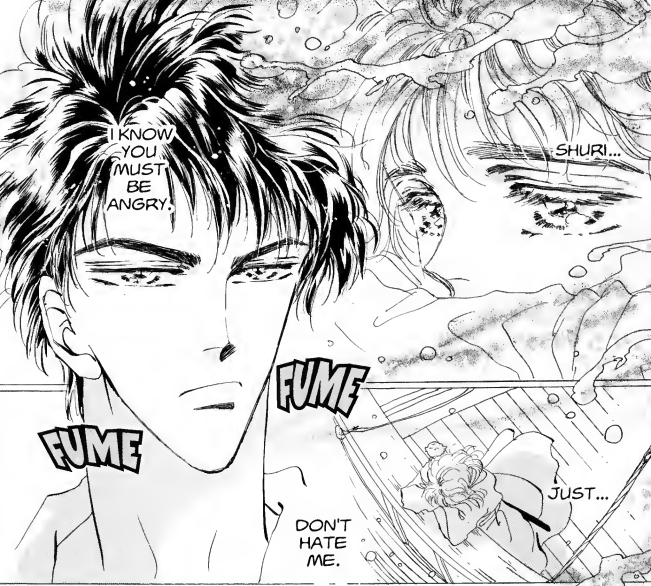
I'M SORRY. I RAN OUT OF PAGES AGAIN. I CAN'T DO A BONUS PAGE.

It's not because I don't want to! The graphic novel has fixed a number of pages, so I can't do a bonus if the main manga fills it up. Sorry!

See you later! Take care! TAMU.

SARASA'S JOURNEY





I KNOW
YOU
MUST
BE
ANGRY.

SHURI...

FUME

FUME

DON'T
HATE
ME.

JUST...



OH,
UM...

SURE!

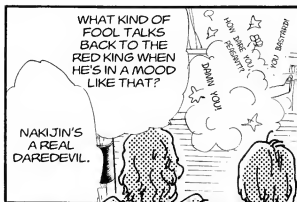
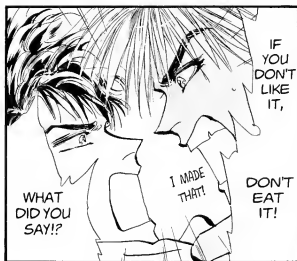


...SA-
RASA?



EVERY-
ONE'S
WAITING
FOR US.

BUT WE
OUGHTTA
STOP BY
SUZAKU
VILLAGE AT
SAKURAJIMA
ON THE WAY.











I WISH HE
WERE A
BETTER SORT
OF MAN.

AS LONG
AS HE
HOLDS
POWER
OVER
PEOPLE...



I HOPE...

...HIS
RELATIONSHIP
WITH
SARASA...

CHANGES
HIM IN A
GOOD
WAY...



KANTO
REGION

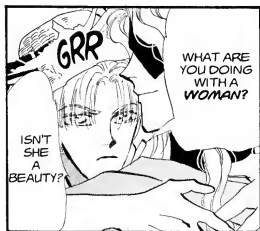
CITY OF
SEIRAN

OH,
MY.

WHAT
A VAST
SHIP!

TO WHOM
DOES IT
BELONG?

TELL
ME,
AGEHA.





WHAT A HAUL!

I WANTED
TO ASK
THEM IF
IZUMI
COULD
STAY ON
THIS SHIP.

IT'LL BE
SAFER FOR
HER TO
GIVE BIRTH
HERE.

DR. NAGI
WILL BE
BACK
SOON,
TOO.



HEE, THAT'S ALL
YOU GOT?
HEE!

I CAN'T
VOUCH FOR
THE SAFETY...

BUT I'VE
BROUGHT
AN
EXPECTANT
MOTHER,
TOO.

SHE'S
CALLED
SENJU.



ARE YOU
EXPECTING,
TOO...?

UM ...



HO!

AGEHA!

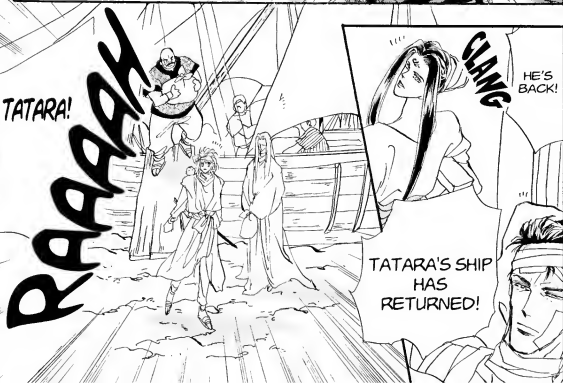
IT'S BEEN
A WHILE.

RAIZO!



SO
THIS IS
WHERE
YOU'VE
BEEN!

AND
IZUMI,
TOO.





YOU LOOK WELL!

TA- TATARA!

TATARA, WELCOME HOME!

YOUR EYES ARE HEALED!

TA-RAAA!

TATARA!

WE'RE SO HAPPY FOR YOU!

WOO-HOO

TATARA!

WELCOME HOME!



I STILL NEED CRUTCHES.

PRETTY WELL.

YADDA YADDA

CHACHA.

OH, ERIC SAID HI.

HOW ARE YOUR WOUNDS?

ZAKI CAN FINALLY GET OUT OF BED.

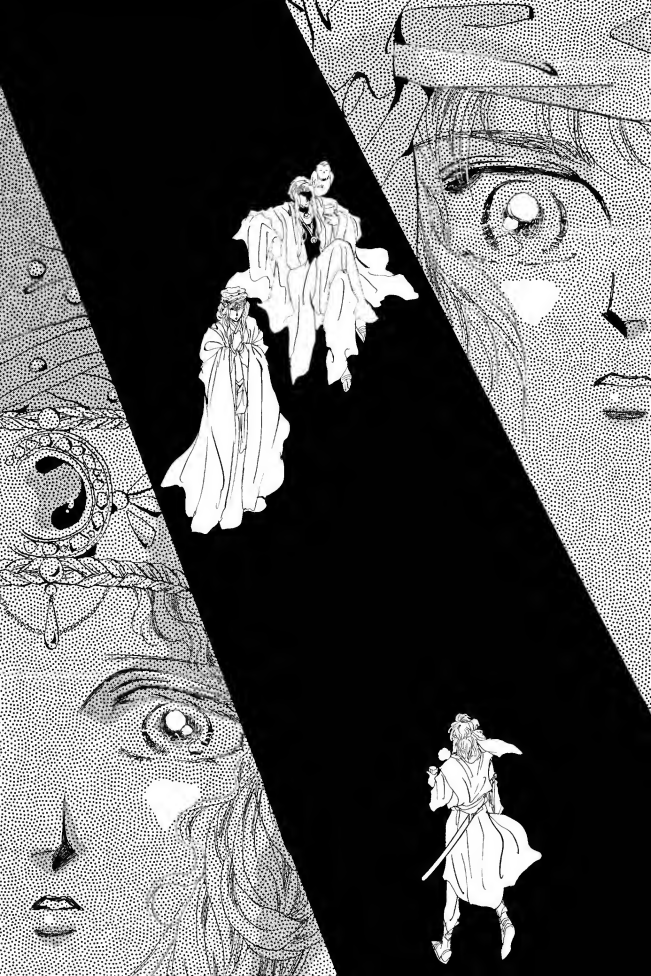
HOW'S ZAKI DOING?

I'M HOME.



EVERYONE...











WHEN
THERE IS WAR,

IN ANY
AGE
...

THERE WILL
BE WIDOWS
AND ORPHANS.

ARE YOU SAYING
YOU HAVE NO
DUTY TO TAKE
CARE OF THE
ONES LEFT
BEHIND?



WELL...

W...



AH...

GFF

WMD



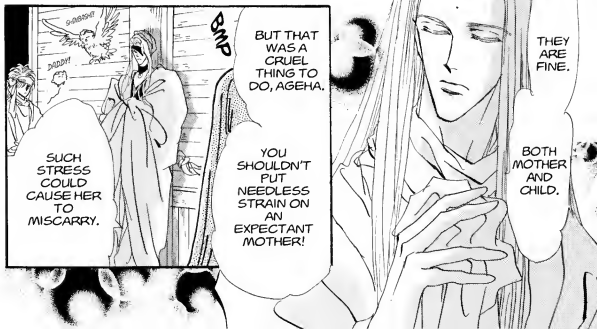
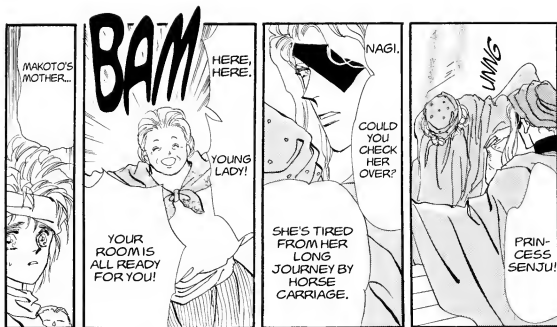
THIS IS
MAD!

I WON'T
PUT UP
WITH IT!

OF THE
MURDERER
OF...
OF LORD...

I REFUSE
TO BE
UNDER
THE CARE...

ZSH





I CAN
ALWAYS
DREAM.

A LITTLE
DREAM I
HAD.

IT'S
JUST...



THERE IS
NO WAR
WHERE
ONLY
ONE
SIDE IS
IN THE
WRONG.



TATARA, I'M
SURE
YOU'RE
AFRAID TO
SEE THE
RESULTS
OF WHAT
YOU DID.

BUT YOU
HAVE TO
FACE IT.



MAKOTO'S
MOTHER.
↓

JUST
LEAVE IT
ALL TO
ME!

GIVING
BIRTH IS A
WONDER-
FUL THING.



A DREAM
TO HAVE
SHIDO'S
CHILD
GROW
UP...

UNDER
TATARA'S
WING?

HONESTLY!

HEH,
HEH.



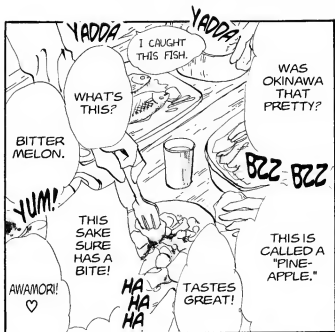
LIKE
OKINAWA...

WE WANT
TO SAY
PROUDLY
THAT WE
LOVE OUR
COUNTRY.



STILL...

WE HAVE
TO FIGHT.



YADDA

I CAUGHT
THIS FISH.

WHAT'S
THIS?

BITTER
MELON.

YUM!

THIS
SAKE
SURE
HAS A
BITE!

AWAMORI!
♡

HA
HA
HA

TASTES
GREAT!

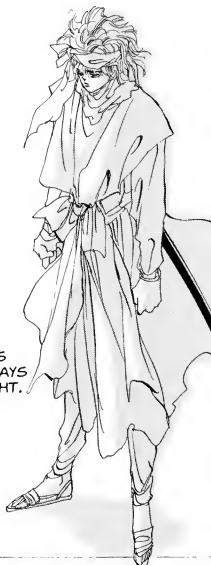
WAS
OKINAWA
THAT
PRETTY?

BZZ BZZ

THIS IS
CALLED A
"PINE-
APPLE."

WHAT
AGEHA
SAYS...

IS
ALWAYS
RIGHT.



BZZ

YADDA

YADDA

EVERY-
ONE.

KEEP
EATING,
BUT
PLEASE
LISTEN TO
ME.

BZZ

THERE
WERE NO
ARISTOCRATS
AND NO
SLAVES.



IN
OKINAWA,
THERE
WAS
NO
KING.

IT
WAS
PEACEFUL.

THERE
WASN'T
EVEN A
MILITARY.



EVERYONE
WORKED
HARD AND
ENJOYED
IT.

EVERYONE
WAS EQUAL.



...I
ENVIED
THEM.

THAT'S
HOW
THEY
GOVERN.

A
REPRESENT-
ATIVE IS
SELECTED BY
THE PEOPLE'S
VOTE.

...INTO A
COUNTRY
LIKE THAT.

I WANT TO
MAKE OUR
JAPAN...





NAW!
IT'S TO DISCUSS
STRATEGY!

MAYBE
STORIES
ABOUT THE
TRIP.

CABIN 3

TATARA
WANTED
TO TALK
TO US?

I
WONDER
WHAT
ABOUT?



TATARA...



I MADE A
PROMISE TO
UNTEN.



NO.

I CAN'T
KEEP
AVOIDING
IT.

SHOULD I
WAIT...

UNTIL HAYATO
AND THE
OTHERS COME
BACK?



HOW
SHOULD I
START...?

I'M
SORRY.

CONFESSING
TO
EVERYONE...

IT ALSO
MEANS I'M
ACCEPTING
THE FACT...

THAT
TATARANO
LONGER
EXISTS.

SAYING
THAT I'M
SARASA...

...NOT
ANYWHERE IN
THIS WORLD.

THAT
YOU NO
LONGER
EXIST.

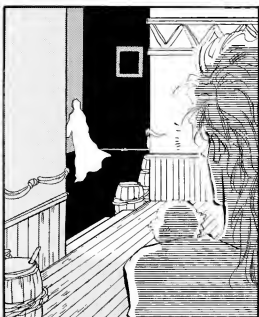
TATARA...



HEY!

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

THAT'S
THE
EMERGENCY
STAIRWELL!

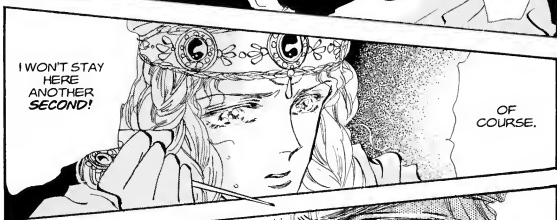


ARE YOU
TRYING TO
ESCAPE?

MS

SEN...

...JU?



I WON'T STAY
HERE
ANOTHER
SECOND!

OF
COURSE.



DON'T
DO IT!



YOU'RE PREGNANT!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR BABY!?

WHAT IF YOU HAVE A MISCARRIAGE!?

I'M SURE...

THAT WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY--

TATARA!

IS SHE LONELY...?

DOES SHE HATE ME?

IS SHE SAD?

STOP IT!

DO I LOOK LIKE THIS, TOO?

EYES OF HATE.

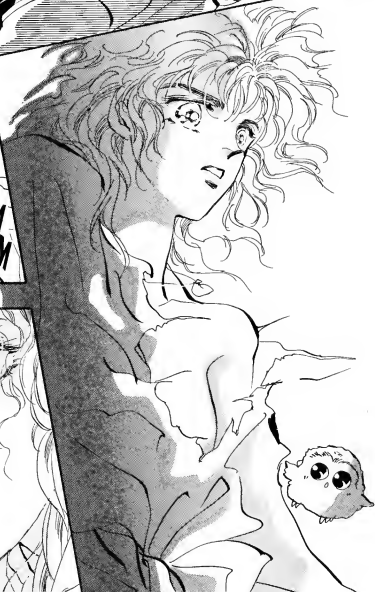


RRIP JUST STOP!

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU!



WHAT'S GOING ON!?





HEH.

WELL...
THAT
MADE IT
EASY.



OH,
TA-
TARA...



PLEASE,
LET'S
SIT.

THIS IS
BASICALLY
WHAT I
WANTED...





THE
VILLAGE
WAS
BURNED

AND SO
MANY
PEOPLE
DIED.

WHEN
BYAKKO
VILLAGE WAS
ATTACKED
BY THE RED
KING...

THAT
NIGHT
...



THEY WERE
BOTH
KILLED.

AND MY
TWIN
BROTHER...

MY FATHER,
THE LEADER,



...WAS
TATARA.

MY
BROTHER'S
NAME...



AND
THEN...

I LET IT
STAY THAT
WAY.



I WANTED
TO
CONTINUE
MY
BROTHER'S
WORK.

SO
ON THE
SPUR
OF THE
MOMENT...

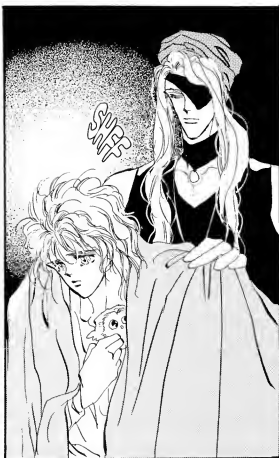
I TOOK
TATARA'S
NAME.



MY
OWN
NAME...

...IS
SARASA.







I WAS SO STUPID!

YOU SHOULDVE TOLD US SOONER!

HA
HA
HA
HA

HERE I JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE A SNOTTY PUNK!



WHAT A WEIGHTY SECRET.



WHY ARE YOU LOOKING LIKE IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD?



YEAH, IT'LL BE USEFUL TO DECEIVE THE ENEMY.

I THINK IT'S BETTER TO KEEP THIS QUIET WHERE THE WORLD IS CONCERNED.



BUT EVEN THIS GUY IS SEXIER THAN HER!

I SAID SHE WAS A GIRL!

I TOLD YOU SO!

HA
HA
HA



WHY THAT LOOK?

HEH

DID YOU THINK THEY'D BE ANGRY?



HA
HA
HA

HA
HA
HA

GOOD.

THEN WE KEEP THIS AMONG OURSELVES.

I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL HAYATO!

HE'LL PASS OUT!



WE
FOLLOWED
YOU ALL THIS
TIME...

JUST
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
TATARA?

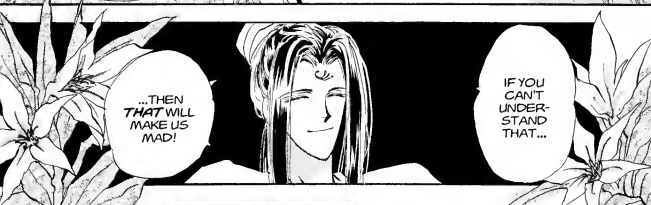
DID YOU
REALLY
THINK...



IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
TO US.

YOU'RE THE
LEADER WE
BELIEVE IN.

WHETHER
YOU'RE
TATARA OR
SARASA...



...THEN
THAT WILL
MAKE US
MAD!

IF YOU
CAN'T
UNDER-
STAND
THAT...



LET'S
GIVE HER
A
BEATING
THEN!

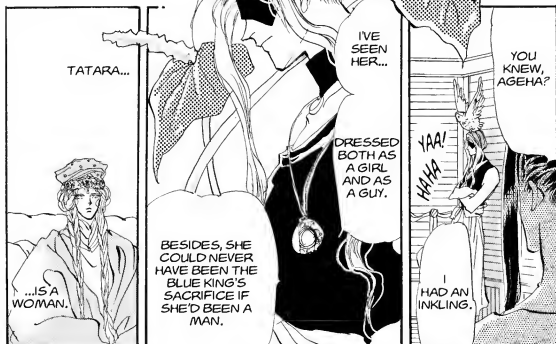
IT SOUNDS
LIKE SHE
WANTS US
TO YELL AT
HER.

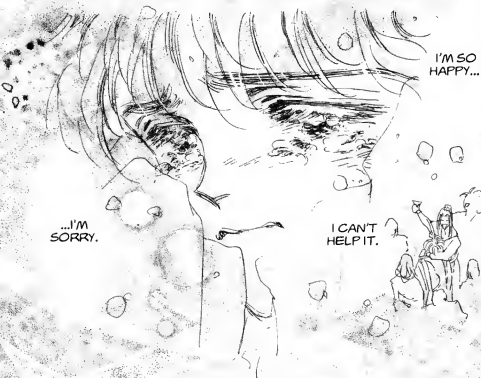
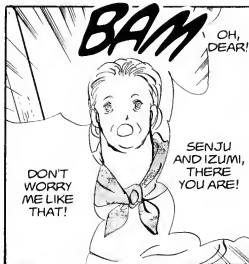


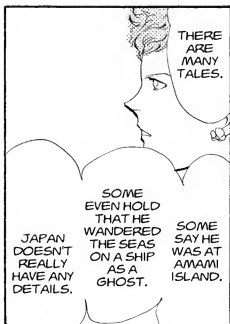
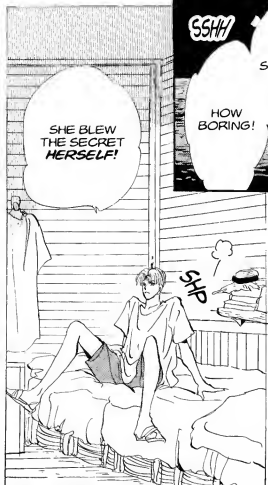
HE WAS SO
MUCH MORE
COMPETENT...

BUT MY
BROTHER
WAS
BETTER
THAN ME.









THAT MEANS...

THOSE TWO COULD'VE COME ACROSS
EACH OTHER!



YES,
SIR!

HE'S
BEEN
CHECKING
THE
NORTH-
EAST.

SUMMON
MURA-
TAKE.

ALSO...



YES,
SIR.

THE RED
KING HAS
SEEN YOUR
FACE,
UMEWAKA.

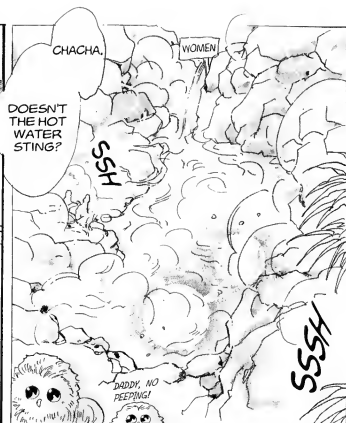
RAN/MARU,
GO TO
SHIKOKU!



I
KNEW
IT.

GRG

I SHOULD
HAVE
GONE
WITH HER.





LOVE...



DO YOU
LOVE
HIM?

"LOVE?"



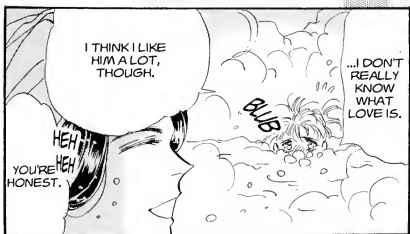
UHHH...

SORT
OF.



OH-HO!

SO YOU KEPT
RUNNING INTO
EACH OTHER
BY ACCIDENT?



I THINK I LIKE
HIM A LOT,
THOUGH.

HEH
HEH
YOU'RE
HONEST.

BUB

...I DON'T
REALLY
KNOW
WHAT
LOVE IS.



I BET YOU'RE
WAITING
BECAUSE
YOU THINK
YOU NEED TO
FOCUS ON
YOUR
MISSION.

OR BECAUSE
YOU'RE
TOO CONCERNED
ABOUT YOUR
COMRADES,
HUH?

YOU'RE
SO
CONSCI-
ENTIOUS.



THAT'S
SO
CUTE!

SO YOU
HAVEN'T
CROSSED
THE LINE
YET, HUH?



YOU NEVER KNOW
IF YOU'LL LIVE TO
MEET AGAIN.

IT'S HARD TO
LIVE A LONG
LIFE IN THIS DAY
AND AGE.

AND YOU
THINK IT MAY
BE THE LAST
CHANCE...

IF YOU
THINK
HE'S THE
ONE...

I
THINK...

IT'S ALL RIGHT
TO DO WHAT
YOU WANT.
GIVE
YOURSELF
TO HIM.

YEAH

PFFT

HAHAHA

NAGI WOULD
NEVER SAY
THAT,
THOUGH.



NEXT
TIME...

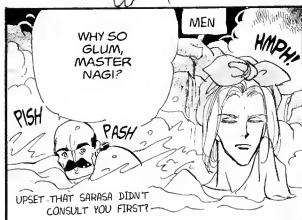


I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
HAVE THIS KIND
OF
CONVERSATION
WITH TATARA.



THE
NEXT
TIME...

WHEN I
SEE
SHURI...



WHY SO
GLUM,
MASTER
NAGI?

MEN

HMPH!

PISH

PASH

UPSET THAT SARASA DIDN'T
CONSULT YOU FIRST?



BUT THAT'S A
DIFFICULT
PLACE, IN A
MANNER OF
SPEAKING.

I ONLY
KNOW OF
THE SITU-
ATION
YEARS
AGO.



THEY WON'T
DO THAT. NOT
WHEN WE'RE
GOING TO
THE
NORTHEAST.

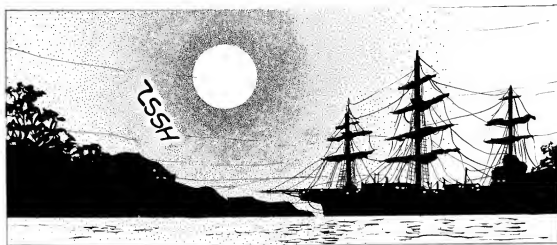
PISH
PISH
PISH

WHY IS
THAT?



I'M WORRIED
THAT
EVERYONE
WILL START
SPOILING
HER.

NOW THAT
SARASA'S
REVEALED
THE
TRUTH...



ARE YOU
SAYING
SOUTHERN
WOMEN
ARE UGLY?



ISN'T IT
COLD UP
THERE?

COLD
PLACES
ARE FULL
OF FAIR-
SKINNED
BABES.



NOT
YET.
BUT
HISHA'S
COMING
BACK
TODAY.

ANY WORD
FROM
HAYATO?

MAYBE
THEY
DIDN'T
HOOK UP
WITH THE
PEOPLE OF
KAZUNO.

THEY'RE
TAKING A
WHILE.

VERTICAL
TAM-TAM TIME ④

ASAGI'S DAY:

NIGHT



He's very clean. he loves taking baths, but he won't bathe with others. He trims his hair diligently, so it never gets too long, but a lot of fans have written in, worried that the bangs in his eyes would bother him. All you fans who worry about him must be very kind-hearted.

TAMU





THEY
WON'T
HELP
THEM.

THEY
NEVER
LET OUT-
SIDERS
IN.

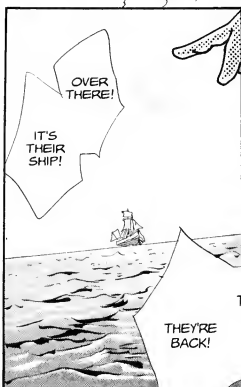
THEY
WON'T
TALK TO
THEM.

IVE
NEVER SEEN SUCH
ISOLATIONISTS.



OH!

DON'T
SCARE
ME,
AGEHA!



OVER
THERE!

IT'S
THEIR
SHIP!



BUT...

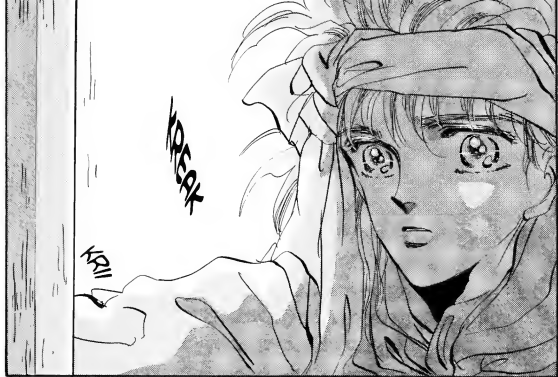
THEY'RE
FIGHT-
ING THE
BLACK
KING.

TATARA!

THEY'RE
BACK!

THEY
SHOULD
HAVE THE
SAME
GOALS WE
DO.

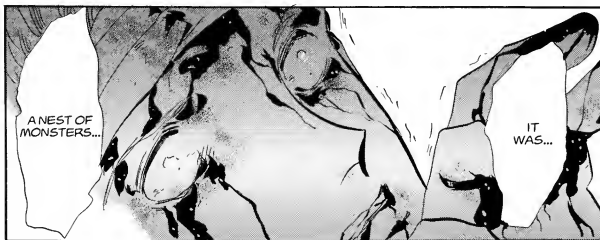
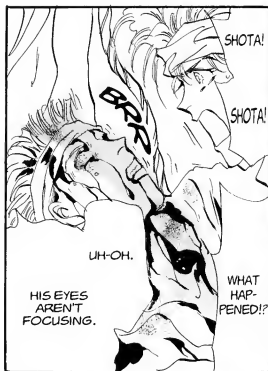






KRII

SHOTA!





Recommendations

If you enjoyed *Basara*, please try these other graphic novels:

NAUSICAA

A small kingdom's princess, Nausicaä has the depth of spirit and broadness of vision to become a legend. Torn from her people and thrown into the complex conflicts destroying post apocalyptic humanity, Nausicaä must somehow resolve the escalating battles that could end the world. Nausicaä's journey is as much a spiritual as a martial one, as is only appropriate from Hayao Miyazaki, director of such animation masterpieces as *Princess Mononoke* and the Academy Award-winning *Spirited Away*.



© 1983 Nibank Co., Ltd.

WILD COM

From *Basara*'s creator, Yumi Tamura, comes a trio of intriguing short stories. Wild Com's heroine has a secret power. Somehow she must overcome her denial and learn to embrace her abilities. *The Beasts of June* is a dark little tale of people so far on the fringe of society they're barely human. *The Eye of the Needle* is a thriller about a rising star struggling with fame and a stalker. Each piece offers a different flavor of drama and action to satisfy a diversity of tastes.



© 1999 Yumi Tamura/Shogakukan, Inc.

CHICAGO

From *Basara*'s creator, Yumi Tamura, *Chicago* is an action-packed short series set in the near future. Capable Rei and her seasoned partner Uozumi are survivors. After being deployed to a half-finished manmade island to search for earthquake victims, their military rescue squad is bombed. Discovering the mysterious forces behind the bombing becomes their personal goal as they join a private rescue force that gathers secretly in a Shinjuku bar called "Chicago."



© 2001 Yumi Tamura/Shogakukan, Inc.

Editor's comments

This volume has more Okinawan cultural details, and one that Chacha certainly appreciates is awamori! Smoother and stronger than regular sake (rice wine), awamori is best served at room temperature or chilled, whereas regular sake is often served warm. Once consumed only by royalty, awamori is now used for celebrations and to treat guests.

An endangered species, the Iriomote wildcat is unique to Iriomote Island. About the size of a house cat, these water-loving felines are generally dusky brown with spots that tend to merge into stripes. Because of their recent induction into global zoology—they were introduced by naturalist Yukio Togawa in 1965—their status as a species is still uncertain. They have attributes uncommon in similar modern big cats, attributes that hearken back to prehistoric felines. With an estimated 100 left in the wild, this unique animal has become one of Iriomote's major tourist draws.

Unten mentioned he intended to do as his name implies and, "let Heaven decide." This statement is somewhat obtuse if you aren't aware of the kanji that make up his name. The "un" in Unten is made of the kanji for destiny and fate, while the "ten" is made of the kanji for heaven. Unfortunately, his love of Okinawa doomed Unten to a tragic end.

Niraikanai is essentially the Okinawan underworld. Some believe it to be underground; others believe it to be across the sea. It is from Niraikanai that the gods travel to pay their annual visits to bless the mortal lands they protect. While both Shintoism and Buddhism are practiced in Okinawa, the belief in Niraikanai is separate from them.

Lillian, our translator, pointed out the repetition of a poignant detail I'd missed. When Unten offers to pick the bones out of Sarasa's fish, it's an endearing, almost parental act. What I'd forgotten is that he's not the only Tamura character to offer such a kindness to a heroine! Those who have read *Chicago* should recall the character of Uozumi's grandfather, who took Rei in after his granddaughter's death. When Rei was young, he'd pick the bones from her fish.

—PD

